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LETTER DATED 27 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith the statement by the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the so-called Croatian initiative, namely, the attempt to challenge the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Charge d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement by the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

At the session held on 23 December 1999, chaired by Prime Minister Momir Bulatovic, the Federal Government discussed and adopted the information on the so-called Croatian initiative, namely, on an attempt to challenge the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations by the former Yugoslav republics.

The Federal Government noted that this initiative was completely in contradiction with the signed agreements on normalization of relations and the need for good-neighbourly relations and stabilization of the situation in the region. Furthermore, this initiative runs counter to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law in general. For the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, its membership in the United Nations is undeniable, completely legitimate and in accordance with all the principles enshrined in the Charter. In this context, Yugoslav diplomacy has undertaken extensive and efficient activities aimed at protecting the membership of our country in the United Nations and reaffirming the principles of universality and legality in international relations.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia highly appreciates the large number of countries that have supported our arguments and positions and thereby enhanced the role of the United Nations and opposed the growing hegemony in international relations which seriously threatens the independence and interests of a large number of countries and of smaller countries in particular.

This attempt to make a dangerous precedent of expulsion of a Member State of the United Nations was met with massive opposition from non-aligned and Latin American countries which considered that the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations is indisputable and which assessed that the acceptance of this initiative would be detrimental for the world organization.

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, as permanent members of the Security Council, stood up in defence of the legitimate rights of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as well as of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and gave our country significant support in line with their principled policy and our traditionally friendly relations.

European Union member States called upon the former Yugoslav republics to call off their action to challenge the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations.

The Federal Government assessed that this initiative had failed and that it had produced an effect completely opposite to that which was intended. The position of a large number of countries helped protect the rights of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and at the same time reaffirmed the international reputation and position of our country.